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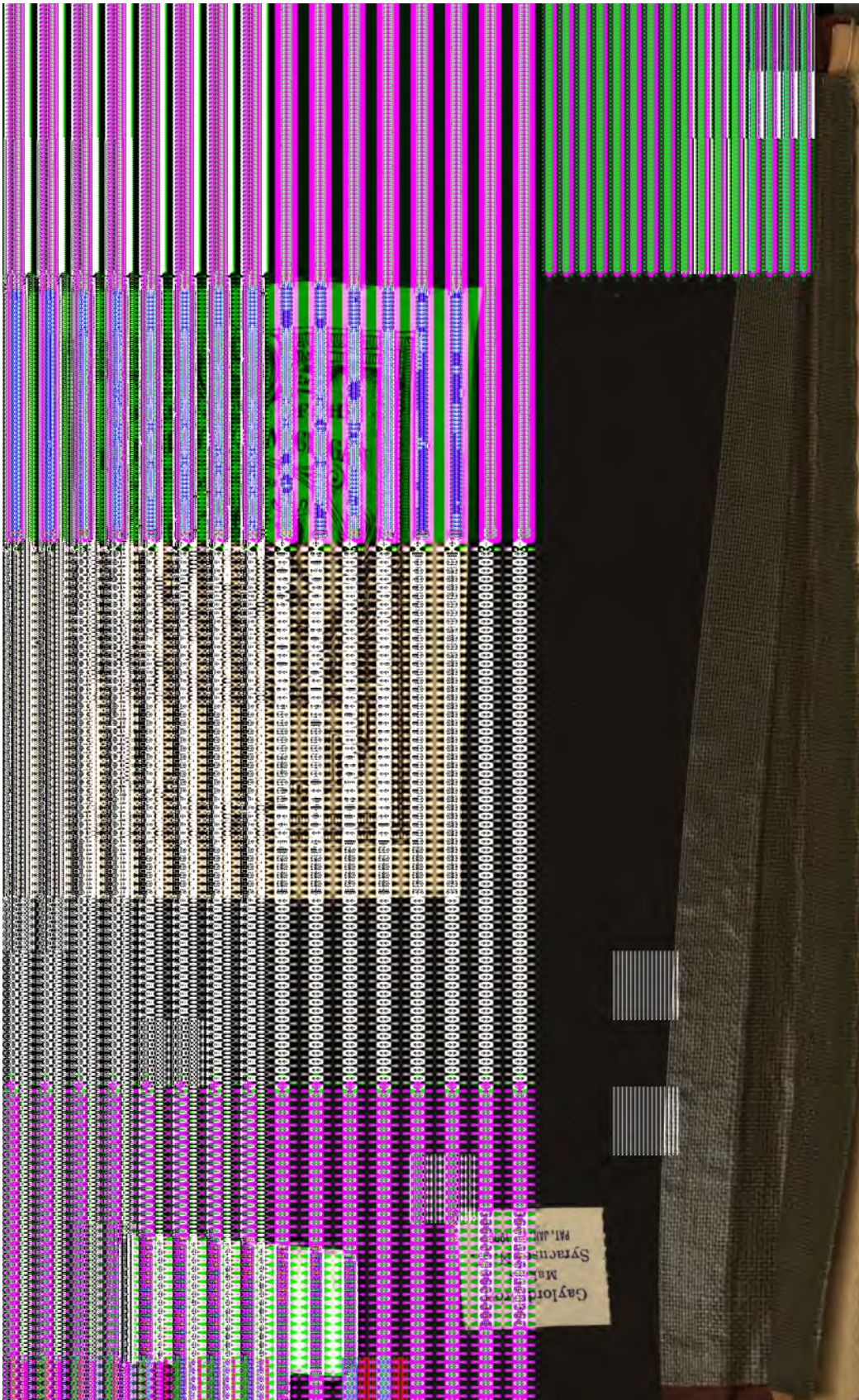
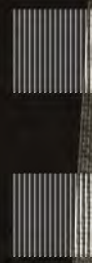
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General Staffs of certain Belligerent Powers

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THE GENERAL STAFFS OF CERTAIN BELLIGERENT
POWERS

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THE GENERAL STAFFS OF CERTAIN BELLIGERENT POWERS.

I. INTRODUCTION.

The object of this study is to give a concise account of the general staffs of certain belligerent powers taking part in the present European war, showing their personnel and duties under peace conditions, and also any increases or changes that have been made necessary during the progress of the present war, so far as data are at present available.

It is proposed to supplement this paper with full information as to any further changes in general staff organizations resulting from the experiences of the present war, when the necessary data have been supplied.

1. THE GENERAL STAFF OF THE AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN ARMY.

The work of the general staff of this army, 1911, included: (1) Service in the offices of the general staff; (2) with troops; (3) in special scientific military employment; and (4) for missions abroad.

"The chief of the general staff for all the armed forces" was the head of the general staff, and was under the immediate orders of the Emperor, and was also an auxiliary organ of the war minister. All work relating to operations and to preparation for the employment of the entire armed force in war was incumbent upon him. He kept in touch with the commander of the navy regarding operations of the fleet. He was assisted in his work by the "deputy chief of the general staff."

The general staff worked in seven sections.

The first section transacted personal and economic affairs and did the correspondence between the sections of the general staff and with outside quarters.

The section for operations worked at all operative affairs, the measures in connection with mobilization, plans for strategic movements, opinions and proposals regarding fortifications, organization and training of the army, regulations and instructions of a tactical and operative nature, programs for maneuvers and matters connected therewith.

The section of instruction attended to the instruction and training of general staff officers.

The topographical section was employed in the military geographical description of the monarchy and other countries.

The intelligence section collected and recorded data concerning foreign armies and fortifications.

The railway section attended to all railway and steamship matters.

The telegraph section attended to the telegraph and signal service.

The general staff attended to the war school, the Military Geographical Institute, and the war archives.

The general staff officers serving with troops performed duties corresponding to the combined duties of chiefs of staff and adjutants general in the United States Army.

The normal strength of the general staff in time of peace, 1911, was:

One general, chief of staff; 2 lieutenant field marshals—one the deputy chief of staff, the other the chief of the military geographical institute; 2 major generals—one chief of the war archives and the other the chief of the war school; 41 colonels, 77 lieutenant colonels, 85 majors, and 209 captains; total, 417. After completing studies at the war school 209 additional officers were attached to the general staff for duty and try out, with a view to their possible appointment on the general staff. In addition there were 46 other officers for clerical work on the general staff, but not with a view to being appointed members of the general staff. Total performing general-staff work, 672.

In time of war the chief of staff takes full control of military matters. According to information on file in the War College, 1914, the Austrian general staff was as follows:

One chief of staff, 1 adjutant to the chief of staff, 2 assistant chiefs of staff—one in charge of lines of communication. The part of the general staff corresponding to our War Department General Staff was divided into eight bureaus: Bureau of direction, bureau of operations, bureau of communication and supplies, bureau of instructions, bureau of monographs, bureau of evidence, bureau of transportation, bureau of telegraphy, and was charged also with the war college, war archives, and military geographical institute. The number of general-staff officers allowed by law was 508; 249 officers were assigned and 71 attached to the general staff; and 101 line officers were detailed on general-staff work, making a total of 929 officers performing general-staff work.

2. THE GENERAL STAFF OF FRANCE.

The general staff of the French Army is one of the seven main divisions of the war department. Military matters, unless they concern more than one department of the National Government, are

directed by the superior military council, which consists of the minister of war, the chief of staff, and 10 major generals. The superior military council exercises control over the general staff. One of the major generals of the superior military council is assistant chief of staff; others are assigned in time of peace to command armies in time of war, and have with them the three general-staff officers to be on their staffs in the field. These prospective army commanders have, in time of peace, supervision of the troops that would be under their command in war. They prepare and direct the maneuvers and staff rides for the training of these troops and generally see to their preparation for war. They are army inspectors.

The chief of staff is the head of the war department general staff, and deals with the larger questions. Other general-staff matters are under the assistant chief of staff. The work of the war department general staff is performed by three groups, each under a general officer.

FIRST GROUP.

1. The bureau of military operations and general training of the army.
2. The bureau charged with the study of the organization and tactics of foreign armies.
3. The bureau of railways and lines of communication.

SECOND GROUP.

1. Bureau of organization and mobilization of the army.
2. The African section.
3. The historical section.

THIRD GROUP.

1. The section of the personnel of the general staff.
2. Routine service section of the general staff.
3. The administrative section.

The chief of staff, assistant chief of staff, and the chief of the first group are major generals. The chiefs of the second and third groups are brigadier generals. In addition the following general staff officers were authorized by law before the present war: Thirty colonels, 40 lieutenant colonels, 170 majors, and 400 captains; total 640.

General staff officers were assigned as follows: War Department general staff, 132; staff with troops, 480; additional staff officers with the war department general staff, 47; with troops, 216. The general staff is larger now.

3. THE GENERAL STAFF OF GERMANY.

The general staff of Germany consists of the war department general staff (called the great general staff) and the general staff officers on duty with the troops.

The officers of the war department general staff performed, in peace, the following duties:

One general, chief of staff, directly under the Emperor, and has charge of the war academy and the land survey; 1 lieutenant general, assistant chief of staff, chief of division; 4 major generals, heads of four divisions; 11 colonels, chiefs of sections; 6 lieutenant colonels, four of them are chiefs of sections; 37 majors, duty with sections and committees; 52 captains and 1 lieutenant performing various general staff duties; total 113.

This part of the general staff is organized into 9 sections and the historical and geographical departments. It has complete charge of the mapping of the country and of the maps of Germany and other countries.

The general staff officers on duty with the troops are under the orders of their commanders, but special work may be assigned to them by the chief of staff.

Before the present war the general staff of Germany consisted of 1 general, 2 lieutenant generals, 6 major generals, 23 colonels, 21 lieutenant colonels, 116 majors, 139 captains, and 1 lieutenant, total 309. Additional officers performing general staff duties were: Three colonels, 13 lieutenant colonels, 44 majors, 36 captains, and 132 lieutenants; total attached officers 228, total number of officers performing general staff duties 537.

4. THE GENERAL STAFF OF GREAT BRITAIN.

The general staff at the war office has the following duties: To advise on the strategical distribution of the army; to supervise the education of the officers and the training and preparation of the army for war; to study military plans for offense and defense; to collect military information, and to direct the general policy in army matters.

The general staff with troops has the following duties: To assist the officers on whose staffs they serve in promoting military efficiency, and to aid them in carrying out the general policy in army matters.

The general staff at the war office, known as department of chief of general staff at army headquarters, was divided into three branches: Military operations, staff duties, and military training. A major general was in charge of each. General staff officers in this

